GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4935
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
HEALTH HAZARDS DUE TO EXPIRED CFL
Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expired/defunct CFL bulbs are hazard on health and adversely affect the environment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) : CFL bulbs contain mercury which is a hazardous element if disposed of carelessly. The expired/used CFL bulbs thrown into Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) dumpyards may lead to health hazards because of mercury and its compounds. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had constituted a Task Force to evolve a policy on "Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps". A Technical Committee, constituted by this Task Force, had prepared "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector". These guidelines prescribe the best practices at various levels such as at manufacturers' level and include aspects relating to mercury consumption, process technology, raw mercury distillation, on-site storage, treatment, recycling, disposal of mercury bearing wastes and mercury spill management.